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EDITORIAL COMMENT

GOOD WILL ON EARTH

THE third Armistice Day (as this is being written) is barely over and the wave of purifying spiritual fervor that swept across the country as our nation honored its heroic dead has been transmuted into a prayerful optimism regarding a favorable outcome of the epochal conference which has been called at Washington by the voice "of a war-wearied world, struggling for restoration, hungering and thirsting for better relationships, of humanity crying for relief and craving assurance of lasting peace." The nation is speaking through the mighty river of communications from individuals and organizations to those upon whom rests the grave responsibility for bringing into the world, in some tangible form, the beginnings, at least, of that empire of world righteousness that "was inherent in the teachings of Buddha, that flashed for a little while behind the sword of Islam, and that is the embodiment in earthly affairs of the life of Him" whose coming to earth we are soon to celebrate. The JOURNAL is at one with its readers in the soul stirring hope that this Christmas season may witness, through the deliberations and conclusions of the Conference, such a demonstration of "Good-will toward men" as may mean a lasting progress toward "Peace on Earth."

ALUMNAE PUBLICATIONS*

OF all the publications flowing in intermittent stream into the JOURNAL office none give such intimate touch with nurses as do the alumnae magazines. Whether they be large or small, well printed and with distinctive covers or young and struggling little messengers, products of mimeograph machines, it is a privilege to share their contents with those for whom they are especially prepared. There one finds the "family affairs," the joys and sorrows, the aspirations and achievements of the associations and their individual members. The Presbyterian Hospital School for Nurses

* A few copies of the Quarterly Magazine may be obtained from Una Justus, 37 East 71st Street, New York City.

Alumnae Association (New York) publishes a quarterly. The July number is of such distinction that we wish every alumnae association might share it. It contains descriptions of the commencement exercises for the class of 1921 which were coincident with the ceremonies attendant upon Miss Maxwell's departure from the school. The whole number is a paean of praise for the beloved "Chief" and those who wrought with her. Straight from the heart came the words that convey so accurately to those afar off the spiritual exaltation of the members of the twenty-seven classes that passed in review, the joyous excitement over taking part in a succession of strikingly beautiful events, the poignant sadness of parting and withal the stirring pride in the rich heritage bequeathed to them; individually and collectively, by her who had so long been guide, counsellor and friend; in return for which the Alumnae, made vocal through its president, offered "unalterable allegiance to her as our guide in upholding nursing standards." The final paragraph of Miss Maxwell's "valedictory" might well be appropriated by every alumnae association, for in it she says:

My last request in handing on this work to you is that you stand together as Alumnae, that any small differences be dealt with in a fair-minded and large way, that you give your loyal support to the School and to those into whose hands the work is given, and that you stand as a model to all Alumnae.

SPECIAL NURSES' CONFERENCES

THE idea of staff conferences in hospitals is not new. With the increasing specialization and constant expansion of activities within the walls of our hospitals has risen the problem of keeping all workers in touch with such developments as may be of common interest. Skilful administration requires that each worker shall see his or her own work and the department of which he is a part, in its right relation to the whole. Out of this need has come an increasingly valuable plan for conferences—the value being governed by the skill of the leader and the live-mindedness of those taking part. Hospital superintendents meet frequently with the heads of departments in larger or smaller groups according to the problems open to discussion. Directors of nurses find it mutually helpful to meet with instructors, supervisors and head nurses at definite intervals for the discussion of problems arising through need of coöperation and coördination in teaching and administration. Among the personnel taking part in such conferences may frequently be found the dietitian and the director of social service. Recently we have learned of successful conferences with special nurses at which such matters were discussed as the arrangement of hours and the right relationship of "specials" to the regular staff. True coöperation must be based on

understanding! Frank and dignified discussion in conference is proving a sound and logical method of maintaining a fine *esprit de corps*.

EVERY NURSE CAN HELP

EVERY nurse knows that tuberculosis is a communicable and therefore a preventable disease and that the keynote of the campaign against the great white plague is education. Most nurses know that the splendid work of the National, State, and Local Tuberculosis Associations is financed by the sale of Christmas seals; tiny messengers of "Good-will" that also mean better health to the nation. This year a billion seals must be sold if the work is to be carried on effectively. Let our thousands of nurses make their contribution felt, whether the individual is financially able to purchase few or many of the rollicking little "Santas" to put on Christmas mail. Let us prove our faith in our fellow workers by contributions in proportion to our means. An organization that, in seventeen years, has reduced the annual death rate from tuberculosis from 200 per 100,000 to 125 per 100,000 is surely worthy of our support in its efforts to save a still larger proportion of the lives of the 132,000 Americans who will be laid low within the coming year. Buy Christmas seals and thus help to provide the nursing, the hospital care, and the education in health habits that are such essential parts of this great Crusade. Buy Christmas Seals! Your pennies will help to save 75,000 lives. Buy Christmas Seals that other countries may continue to find our methods of fighting this great scourge a source of inspiration and guidance!

THE NIGHTINGALE PLAY

ELSEWHERE in this JOURNAL may be found a letter written by Professor Hillebrand, author of the play which won the prize of \$500 offered by the Central Council of Nursing Education and for which twenty-eight writers in fifteen states, Canada and the Canal Zone competed during the Nightingale Centennial year. That the character and achievements of Miss Nightingale provided fascinating material for the dramatist is clearly shown in the letter. The author indicates that he has made a careful character study comparable, possibly, to the Drinkwater "Lincoln." Just as some students of Lincoln's life object to the placing of emphasis on certain phases of his character to the exclusion of others, so some students of Miss Nightingale's life may object to certain elements in this interpretation. The play was not written with the thought of amateur producers, such as student nurses, in mind. Indeed, it is hoped that it may be presented by an actress of note and in such fashion that the world may come to recognize its debt to the prophetic vision of the founder of modern

nursing. The Central Council of Nursing Education is composed largely of lay members of the boards of the various schools having membership in the Council. Much of its success is due to the wise and enthusiastic leadership of Martha Wilson, whose interest in nursing began with the organization of the Vassar Training Camp. It is the hope of Miss Wilson and her forward looking colleagues, that through a widespread presentation of the play, a more general and appreciative understanding of nursing may be brought about. The play aims to show clearly the antagonisms and difficulties Miss Nightingale overcame. We hope it may be produced as the author desires, as such a play should have a marked influence in bringing about an enlightened public opinion as to community responsibility for the ever broadening nursing service that is necessary if we are to approximate our own conception of health standards.

NEWS ITEMS

WE wish to give space to all the important items of news from all parts of the country and in order to do this, we are obliged to greatly abridge such news items. Our aim is to preserve the important facts sent us, but to omit transitory details, however delightful they may be. We make an exception in regard to reports of state meetings which are given very fully, for they have a right of way. If state reports seem meagre and inadequate to members waiting anxiously for news of a meeting they could not attend, they may know that only a short report was sent to us. We are sometimes criticised for giving so much space to Army, Navy, and Public Health Service appointments, but we know from frequent testimony that the frequently isolated nurses in these services watch eagerly for the news of their associates which comes to them in this way.

Beginning with this number of the JOURNAL, we are adopting a new method of publication for births and marriages. The form is more concise than that we have used in the past, but the names of the nurses are printed in heavy face type and are arranged alphabetically, so that those looking for news of a friend may quickly find it. This method was suggested by a visitor who came into our office one day. We should welcome like suggestions from other readers whether by personal interview or by letter.

DR. MAYO WILL SPEAK FOR HIMSELF

THE Editors take pleasure in announcing that Dr. Charles H. Mayo has accepted their invitation to present his views on nursing directly to the JOURNAL's readers. Dr. Mayo's article will appear in the January JOURNAL.